

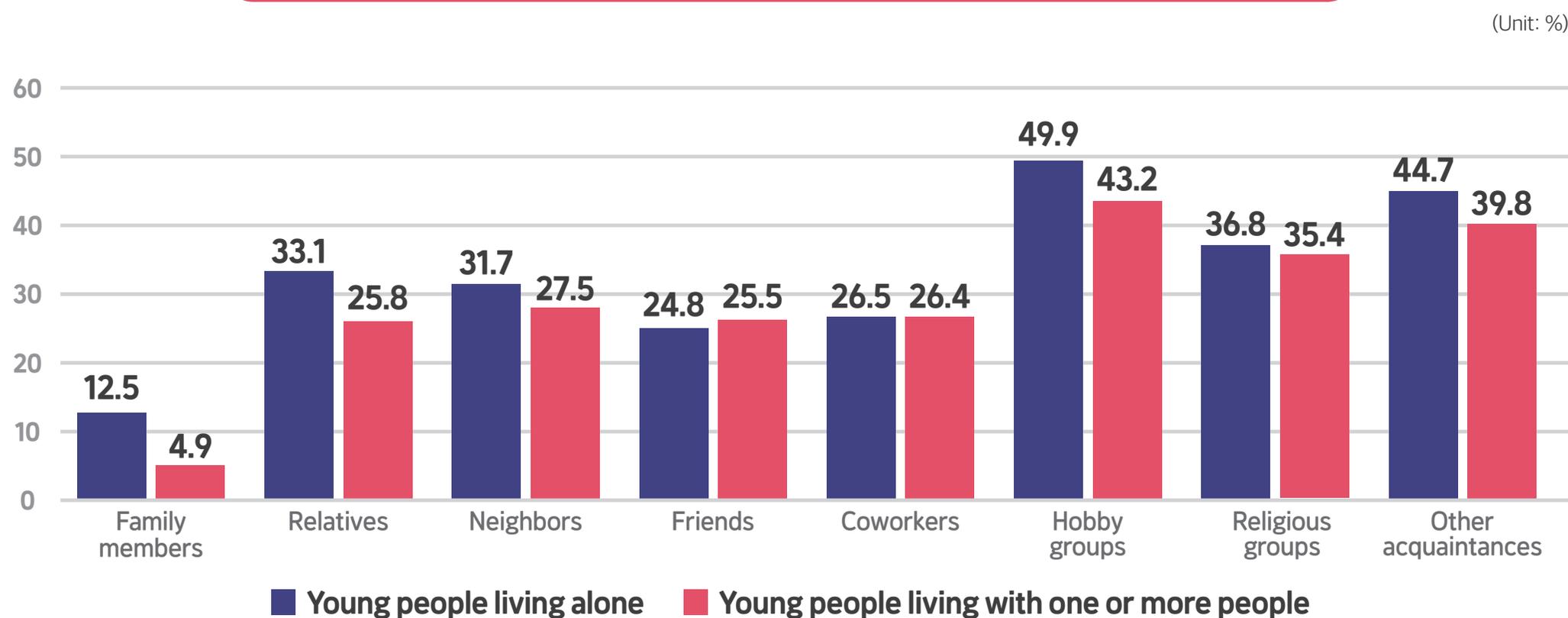
Changes regarding Young Women Living Alone Since the Covid-19 Pandemic



Changes in the social networks of young people living alone since the Covid-19 pandemic

Since the pandemic, social interaction among young people living alone has decreased.

<Figure 1> The proportion of young people who reported that they had grown distant with people in their social relations since the pandemic



Source: Raw data from the Social Survey (2021), Statistics Korea

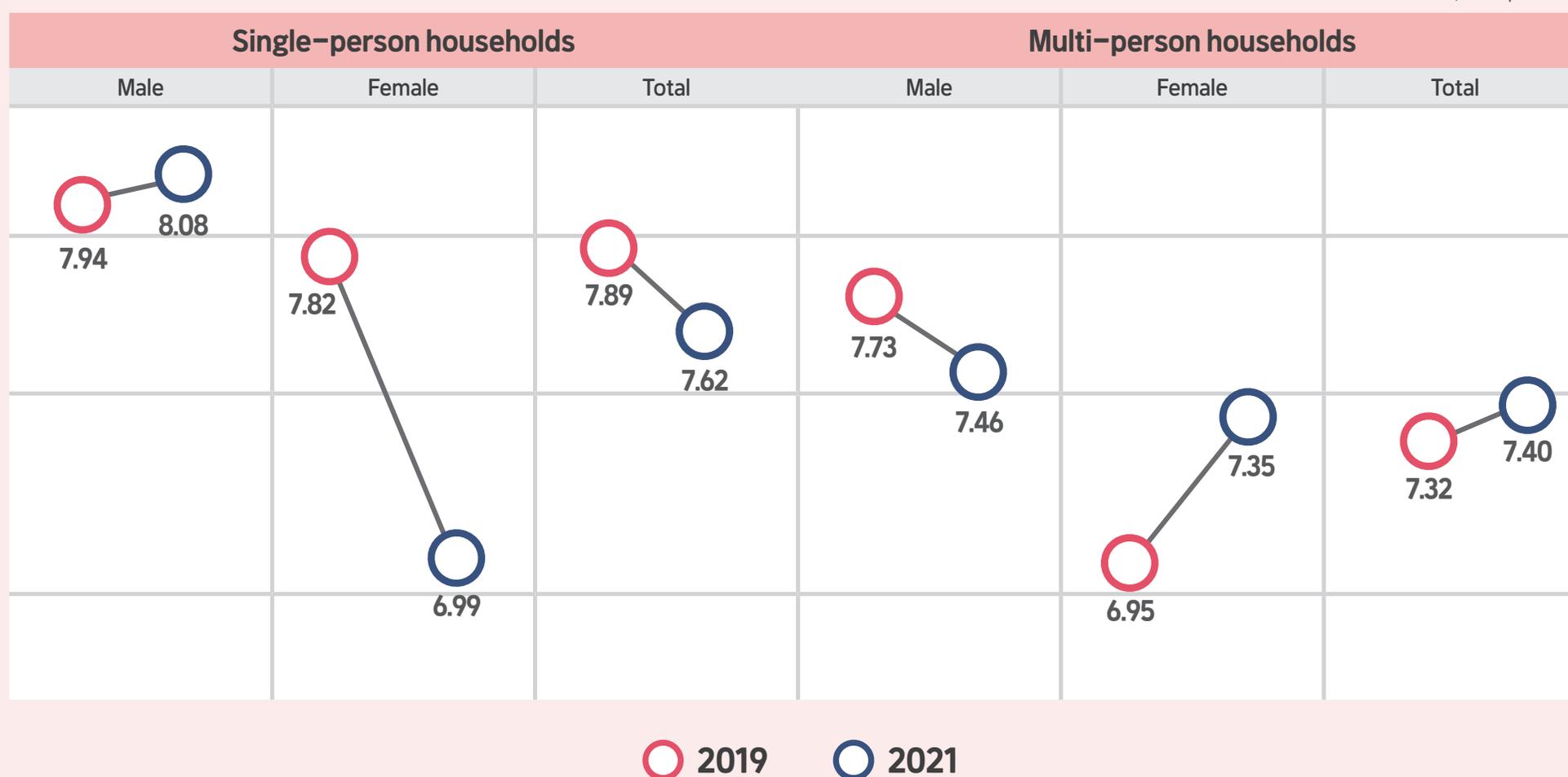
Note: 1) Those who did not respond or marked "Not applicable" were excluded.

The proportion of those who answered that they had grown distant with most people in their social relations **was greater since the pandemic** among those living alone than those living with one or more people.

The impact of the pandemic on the social relations of young people

<Figure 2> No. of people in social relations before and after the pandemic

(Unit: persons)



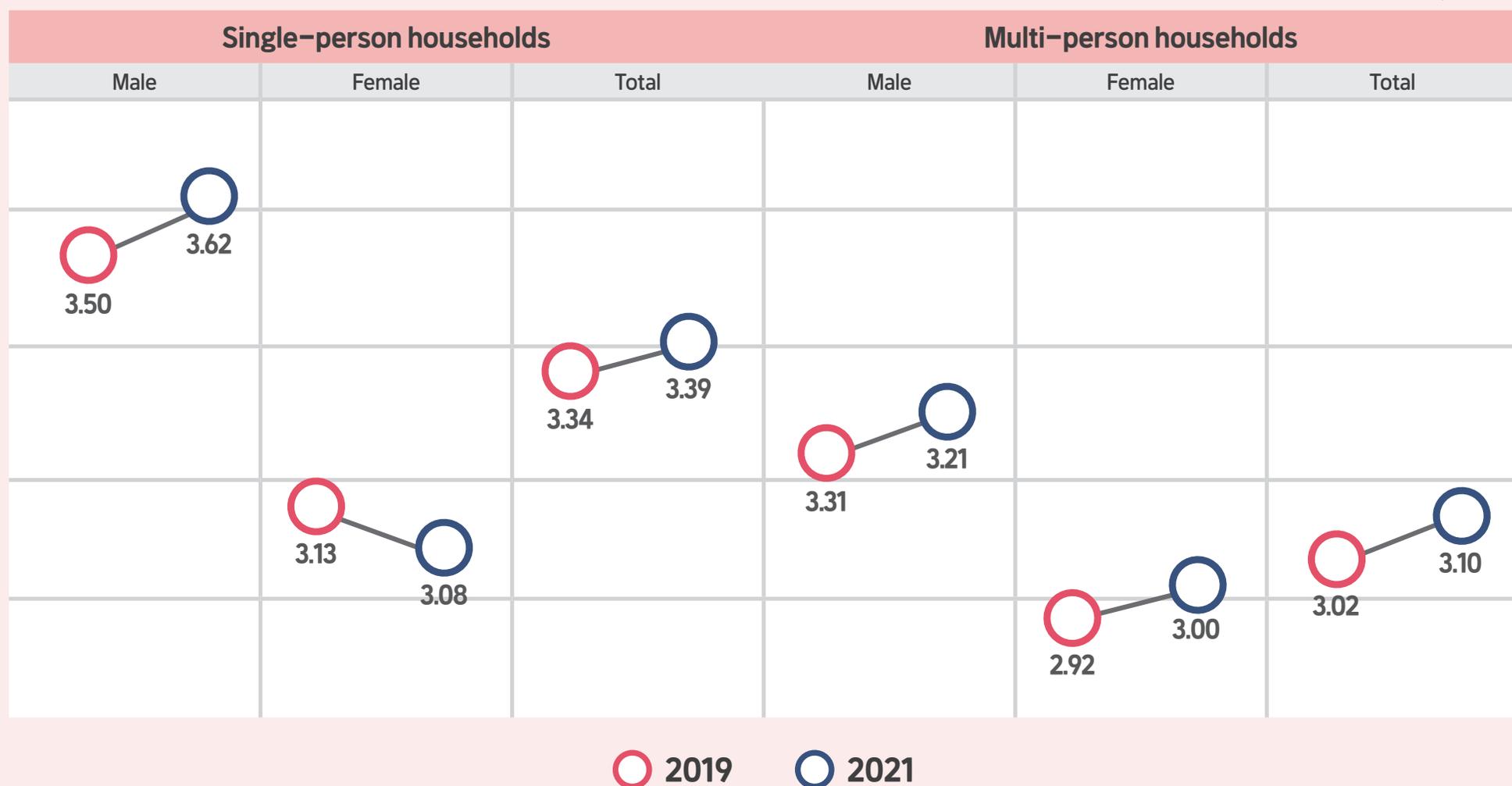
Source: Raw data from the Social Survey (2019 and 2021), Statistics Korea
 Note: 1) Those who did not respond and marked "Not applicable" were excluded.

In particular, **young women living alone had the smallest number of people in social relations** after the pandemic compared to their counterparts. In contrast, both young men living alone and young women living with one or more people reported an increased number of people in social relations after the pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic on the social relations of young people

<Figure 3> No. of people who can be relied upon in emergency before and after pandemic

(Unit: persons)



Source: Raw data from the Social Survey (2019 and 2021), Statistics Korea

Note: 1) Those who did not respond or marked "Not applicable" were excluded. 2) Participants were asked about the number of people to whom they could turn when facing one of the following problems, such as sickness, a financial issue, or emotional issue.

Since the pandemic, young women living alone have experienced **shrinking social circles with fewer people to turn to when needing help.**

Research summary and implications

Policy support is needed in order to help prevent young people living alone, **especially young women living alone**, from being increasingly isolated due to shrinking social networks.



- 1** Provide gender-sensitive support to young people living alone
- 2** Diversify policy support by reflecting the characteristics of young people.
- 3** Compile statistical data to facilitate in-depth analyses and follow-up surveys of the status of young people living alone

For more details, please see the KWDI Brief volume 79

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A Support Plan for the Social Network Building of Young People in Single-Person Households¹⁾

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- The number of young people in single-person households is constantly increasing. Hence, forms and compositions of social networks are changing.
- Social networks have both positive and negative influences on various areas of our lives, such as subjective perception of happiness, health, and quality of life, depending on their forms.
- Most current relevant research tends to focus on middle-aged or senior groups. In this regard, official statistical data are significantly lacking to monitor the status of the social networks of young people in single-person households.
- This paper examines the trajectory and features of changes in the social networks of young(aged 19-34) people in single-person households by gender. It aims to lay a basic theoretical foundation for statistical development and appropriate social network support plans tailored to gender and the characteristics of the youth.

Category	Details
Data	- Survey on the Living Conditions and Welfare Needs of Youths, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA) - The 2019 Social Survey, Statistics Korea - The 2021 Social Survey, Statistics Korea *All data were weighted when analyzed.
Target	- Young people aged 19-34.
Working definitions	- Single-person household: A household that contains one person living alone. - Multi-person household: A household with two or more persons sharing the same residence (including non-family members). - Pre- and Post-COVID-19 periods: In the case of the Social Survey, the 2019 data are defined as 'pre-COVID-19 period', and the 2021 data as 'post-COVID-19 period'.

¹⁾ This paper partially modified and revised KWDI Gender Statistics Information System Report 22-2 (Status of Social Network of Young Single-person Households). The original version is available at <https://gsis.kwdi.re.kr/gsis/kr/board/BoardDetail.html>.